

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service
Lincoln National Forest
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PRESCRIBED BURNS ON SACRAMENTO RANGER DISTRICT – TWO FUELS REDUCTION PROJECTS

Alamogordo, NM (September 19, 2006) – The Sacramento Ranger District, Cloudcroft, will resume the planned Rio Penasco and James Ridge fuels reduction projects, during the weeks of September 19 through September 30, 2006. The projects had begun earlier this month but due to increased Monsoon moisture, the prescribed burns were postponed until weather conditions improved.

The projects incorporate the Deerhead and James Ridge handpile prescribed burns. The James Ridge Unit is 220 acres and the Deerhead Unit is approximately 200 acres. The projects are designed to remove fuels in ponderosa pine and mixed conifer stands, reduce the potential for damaging crown fires, and enhance firefighting capabilities. The areas were thinned and piled two to three years ago.

Residents in these areas should expect to see and smell smoke during the course of these burns. When the projects begin, signs will be posted along highways affected by the smoke and motorists are urged to use caution. Forest Service personnel will be posting current information regarding progress of the burns for communities and residents in the area. As always, firefighter and public safety are a top priority.

For additional information, please contact the Sacramento Ranger District Office, (505) 682-2551, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The mailing address is: Sacramento Ranger District Office, P.O. Box 288, Cloudcroft, N.M., 88317

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